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## PHILADELPHIA AREA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2002

Fatal work injuries totaled 82 in 2002 for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA), according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that this year's count was 16 percent lower than the 98 fatal work injuries recorded in 2001 and was close to the series low of 80 deaths in 1998.

Highway crashes was the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities for both the nation and the Philadelphia area. The number of highway crashes (19) in the metropolitan area was at its highest level since 1997—when an identical number of work-related fatalities was also recorded—and accounted for 23 percent of fatal work injuries in 2002. (See table A.) Nationally, highway crashes accounted for one-quarter of all fatal work injuries. Fatalities resulting from falls to a lower level (10) declined for the second straight year and were at their lowest level since 1995, when nine were reported. Fatal falls to lower level accounted for 12 percent of work-related deaths in the Philadelphia area and 11 percent of the U.S. total.

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in the Philadelphia CMSA by selected event groups, 1993-2002

| Year | Total fatalities | Highway crashes |         | Falls to lower level |         | Homicides |         |
|------|------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------|---------|-----------|---------|
|      |                  | Number          | Percent | Number               | Percent | Number    | Percent |
| 1993 | 127              | 17              | 13      | 18                   | 14      | 42        | 33      |
| 1994 | 99               | 17              | 17      | 15                   | 15      | 24        | 24      |
| 1995 | 97               | 15              | 15      | 9                    | 9       | 26        | 27      |
| 1996 | 119              | 11              | 9       | 17                   | 14      | 36        | 30      |
| 1997 | 102              | 19              | 19      | 15                   | 15      | 26        | 25      |
| 1998 | 80               | 18              | 23      | 11                   | 14      | 14        | 18      |
| 1999 | 97               | 14              | 14      | 14                   | 14      | 13        | 13      |
| 2000 | 101              | 9               | 9       | 18                   | 18      | 16        | 16      |
| 2001 | 98               | 13              | 13      | 13                   | 13      | 25        | 26      |
| 2002 | 82               | 19              | 23      | 10                   | 12      | 9         | 11      |

Over the year, workplace homicides were down 64 percent, from 25 in 2001 to 9 in 2002. The number of workplace homicides in 2002 was the lowest since the program began counting Philadelphia area workplace fatalities in 1993 and represented a 79 percent decline from the high of 42 workplace homicides recorded in 1993. Workplace homicides, excluding work-related fatalities that resulted from the September 11 terrorist attacks, were down 5 percent in 2002 in the U.S., falling from 643 in 2001 to 609 in 2002. The number of workplace homicides in 2002 in the U.S. was also the lowest recorded in the fatality census and represented a 44 percent decline from the high of 1,080 workplace homicides recorded in 1994. (See table B.)

Nationwide, a total of 5,524 fatal work injuries were reported in 2002, a decline of 7 percent from 2001, excluding work-related fatalities that resulted from the September 11 terrorist attacks. The count for 2002 was the lowest ever recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted yearly in all states since 1992. All but one of the major event categories recorded a decline, the exception being exposure to harmful substances or environments (up 8 percent). At the more detailed level, the number of job-related deaths from highway crashes decreased by 3 percent from 2001, but continued to be the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities. Fatalities resulting from falls to lower level declined for the first time since 1998, from 700 in 2001 to 634 in 2002, a drop of 9 percent.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event groups, 1992-2002

| Year              | Total fatalities | Highway crashes |         | Falls to lower level |         | Homicides |         |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                   |                  | Number          | Percent | Number               | Percent | Number    | Percent |
| 1992              | 6,217            | 1,158           | 19      | 507                  | 8       | 1,044     | 17      |
| 1993              | 6,331            | 1,242           | 20      | 534                  | 8       | 1,074     | 17      |
| 1994              | 6,632            | 1,343           | 20      | 580                  | 9       | 1,080     | 16      |
| 1995              | 6,275            | 1,346           | 21      | 578                  | 9       | 1,036     | 17      |
| 1996              | 6,202            | 1,346           | 22      | 610                  | 10      | 927       | 15      |
| 1997              | 6,238            | 1,393           | 22      | 653                  | 10      | 860       | 14      |
| 1998              | 6,055            | 1,442           | 24      | 625                  | 10      | 714       | 12      |
| 1999              | 6,054            | 1,496           | 25      | 634                  | 10      | 651       | 11      |
| 2000              | 5,920            | 1,365           | 23      | 659                  | 11      | 677       | 11      |
| 2001 <sup>1</sup> | 5,915            | 1,409           | 24      | 700                  | 12      | 643       | 11      |
| 2002              | 5,524            | 1,372           | 25      | 634                  | 11      | 609       | 11      |

<sup>1</sup> The BLS national news release issued September 25, 2002 reported a total of 5,900 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2001. Since then, an additional 15 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2001 to 5,915. Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities due to the events of September 11, 2001 which claimed the lives of 2,886 persons in work status.

Philadelphia had a lower than average percentage of occupational fatalities resulting from highway crashes; this is not uncommon among major metropolitan areas. In fact, of the ten largest metropolitan areas, all recorded shares of highway crashes below the national average of 24.8 percent in 2002. Among these areas, Philadelphia had the highest percentage of fatal work injuries due to highway incidents (23.2 percent) in 2002. (See table C.) However, this ranking can vary widely from year to year. For example, in 2001, Philadelphia ranked third lowest of the ten largest metropolitan areas in percentage of workplace fatalities due to highway crashes (13.3 percent); only Boston (12.1 percent) and Detroit (10.2 percent) were lower.

Philadelphia had the second lowest percentage of work-related homicides (11.0 percent) among these large metropolitan areas in 2002, just above Boston's 10.0 percent. As with highway crashes, homicides can account for a very different share of fatal work injuries from one year to the next. In 2001, Philadelphia had the highest percentage of fatal work injuries due to homicides in the ten largest metropolitan areas (25.5 percent).

Table C. Fatal occupational injuries by selected event groups in the ten largest metropolitan areas, 2001-2002

| Metropolitan Area <sup>1</sup>                        | Total fatalities<br>(number) |       | Highway crashes<br>(percent) |      | Homicides<br>(percent) |      |
|---|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
|   | 2001 <sup>2</sup>            | 2002  | 2001 <sup>2</sup>            | 2002 | 2001 <sup>2</sup>      | 2002 |
| Total U.S. <sup>3</sup>                               | 5,900                        | 5,524 | 23.8                         | 24.8 | 10.8                   | 11.0 |
| Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT                | 58                           | 50    | 12.1                         | 22.0 | 12.1                   | 10.0 |
| Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI                        | 152                          | 128   | 14.5                         | 13.3 | 17.1                   | 23.4 |
| Dallas-Fort Worth, TX                                 | 113                          | 99    | 19.5                         | 18.2 | 16.8                   | 20.2 |
| Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI                           | 88                           | 78    | 10.2                         | 10.3 | 23.9                   | 26.9 |
| Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX                        | 113                          | 71    | 14.2                         | 11.3 | 23.0                   | 21.1 |
| Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA               | 193                          | 205   | 14.0                         | 15.1 | 19.2                   | 17.1 |
| New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA | 212                          | 242   | 14.2                         | 14.0 | 14.2                   | 20.7 |
| Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD    | 98                           | 82    | 13.3                         | 23.2 | 25.5                   | 11.0 |
| San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA                    | 80                           | 66    | 13.8                         | 22.7 | 15.0                   | 19.7 |
| Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV                     | 99                           | 122   | 26.3                         | 18.0 | 20.2                   | 17.2 |

<sup>1</sup> Metropolitan area used in this table are categorized into Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs) and are based on definitions from the Office of Management and Budget Bulletin Number 99-04, June 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Data for metropolitan areas are based on a preliminary total of 5,900 fatal work injuries. Data exclude fatalities related to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

<sup>3</sup> Also includes fatalities occurring in nonmetropolitan areas.

### **Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in the Philadelphia CMSA in 2002:**

- Men accounted for 89 percent (73) of the work-related fatalities in the Philadelphia area.
- In the metropolitan area, 60 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanic (49); 22 percent were black, non-Hispanic (18); and 13 percent were Hispanic or Latino (11).
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up nearly two-thirds, or 54, of the Philadelphia area's work-related fatalities in 2002.
- Two industry divisions accounted for 38 percent of the workplace fatalities in the metropolitan area—transportation and public utilities (17) and construction (14).
- Two detailed occupations accounted for 17 percent of all work-related fatalities in the Philadelphia area—truck drivers (9) and construction laborers (5).

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data is available on the BLS Internet site at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>. Data can be accessed in two ways—through Selective Access, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. The Mid-Atlantic Information Office can provide assistance accessing these files by calling (215) 597-3282.

## **TECHNICAL NOTES**

Data presented in this release is from the 2002 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a program conducted jointly with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Delaware Department of Labor, and Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. All 50 States and the District of Columbia participate in the CFOI program. The program provides workplace fatality data by occupational, industrial, and demographic characteristics as well as type of event and is designed to provide the safety and health community with verified counts of fatal work injuries as well as basic information on these deaths that can be used to help prevent future fatalities in the workplace.

Information on fatal occupational injuries was compiled from a variety of administrative sources including death certificates, motor vehicle traffic accident reports, medical examiners reports, State and Federal workers' compensation reports, and other government investigative reports. Each fatality was substantiated by either two independent source documents or one source document and a follow-up questionnaire to the employer or other contact (excluding next-of-kin) who had knowledge about the circumstances of the incident.

While the purpose of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries is to compile a complete count of traumatic workplace fatalities, information was also collected on fatal occupational illnesses that were recognized as work-related or that occurred at work. (There is not necessarily a causal relationship implied for illness deaths occurring at work.) A comprehensive count of fatalities resulting from occupational illnesses cannot be produced from current data largely because of the latency period associated with many occupational illnesses, as well as the difficulty in associating illnesses with exposures in the workplace. Therefore, fatal occupational illnesses are excluded from the tables.

The Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., CMSA consists of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Atlantic, Cape May, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

**Fatal occupational injuries in Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City,  
Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. CMSA by selected characteristics, 2002**

| Metropolitan area <sup>1</sup>  | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| Total .....   | 82     | 100.0   |
| <b>Sex</b>  |        |         |
| Men .....   | 73     | 89.0    |
| Women .....   | 9      | 11.0    |
| <b>Age</b>  |        |         |
| 25 to 34 years .....  | 16     | 19.5    |
| 35 to 44 years .....  | 23     | 28.0    |
| 45 to 54 years .....  | 15     | 18.3    |
| 55 to 64 years .....  | 11     | 13.4    |
| 65 and over .....   | 10     | 12.2    |
| <b>Race or ethnic origin</b>  |        |         |
| White, non-Hispanic.....  | 49     | 59.8    |
| Black, non-Hispanic.....  | 18     | 22.0    |
| Hispanic or Latino.....   | 11     | 13.4    |
| <b>Event or exposure</b>  |        |         |
| <b>Transportation incidents</b> .....   | 35     | 42.7    |
| Highway .....   | 19     | 23.2    |
| Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment .....                                  | 12     | 14.6    |
| Moving in intersection .....  | 5      | 6.1     |
| Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment .....                                    | 8      | 9.8     |
| Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in<br>parking lot or non-road area ..... | 6      | 7.3     |
| Water vehicle .....   | 5      | 6.1     |
| <b>Assaults and violent acts</b> .....  | 15     | 18.3    |
| Homicides .....   | 9      | 11.0    |
| Shooting .....  | 9      | 11.0    |
| Self-inflicted injury .....   | 6      | 7.3     |
| <b>Contact with objects and equipment</b> .....                                     | 8      | 9.8     |
| Struck by object .....  | 5      | 6.1     |
| <b>Falls</b> .....  | 12     | 14.6    |
| Fall to lower level .....   | 10     | 12.2    |
| <b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b> .....                         | 7      | 8.5     |
| <b>Fires and explosions</b> .....   | 5      | 6.1     |
| <b>Occupation</b>   |        |         |
| <b>Managerial and professional specialty</b> .....                                  | 7      | 8.5     |
| Professional specialty .....  | 5      | 6.1     |
| <b>Technical, sales, and administrative support</b> .....                           | 7      | 8.5     |
| <b>Service occupations</b> .....  | 13     | 15.9    |
| Protective service occupations .....  | 9      | 11.0    |
| <b>Farming, forestry, and fishing</b> .....   | 9      | 11.0    |
| Other agricultural and related occupations .....                                    | 6      | 7.3     |
| <b>Precision production, craft, and repair</b> .....                                | 10     | 12.2    |

See footnotes at end of table.

**Fatal occupational injuries in Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. CMSA by selected characteristics, 2002 — Continued**

| Metropolitan area <sup>1</sup>                         | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| <b>Occupation</b>                                      |        |         |
| Construction trades .....                              | 6      | 7.3     |
| <b>Operators, fabricators, and laborers</b> .....      | 36     | 43.9    |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors .....    | 5      | 6.1     |
| Transportation and material moving occupations .....   | 23     | 28.0    |
| Motor vehicle operators .....                          | 15     | 18.3    |
| Truck drivers .....                                    | 9      | 11.0    |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .. | 8      | 9.8     |
| Construction laborers .....                            | 5      | 6.1     |
| <b>Industry</b>  |        |         |
| <b>Private industry</b> .....                          | 72     | 87.8    |
| <b>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</b> .....         | 10     | 12.2    |
| Agricultural services .....                            | 5      | 6.1     |
| <b>Construction</b> .....                              | 14     | 17.1    |
| General building contractors .....                     | 5      | 6.1     |
| Special trades contractors .....                       | 6      | 7.3     |
| <b>Manufacturing</b> .....                             | 10     | 12.2    |
| <b>Transportation and public utilities</b> .....       | 17     | 20.7    |
| Trucking and warehousing .....                         | 6      | 7.3     |
| <b>Retail trade</b> .....                              | 9      | 11.0    |
| <b>Services</b> .....                                  | 8      | 9.8     |
| <b>Government<sup>2</sup></b> .....                    | 10     | 12.2    |
| Local government .....                                 | 8      | 9.8     |

<sup>1</sup> Metropolitan areas used in this table are categorized into Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs) and are based on definitions from the Office of Management and Budget Bulletin Number 99-04, June 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for 2002 are preliminary. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries